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NEWS RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

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**9 DUI Checkpoints and Hundreds of Patrols Set in Delaware for
National DUI Crackdown (Aug. 15 – Sept. 1)**

Dover – Nationally, one person dies in an alcohol-related crash every 39 minutes, killing approximately 37 people a day, or more than 13,000 people each year. Of those people killed, approximately 64 percent were drivers with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher.

Though alcohol-related crashes in Delaware are down by nearly 10% compared to this time last year, still an average of 3 people each month (24 total) have died in alcohol-related crashes since January 1st. Another 120 have been arrested for DUI since June 27th when the Office of Highway Safety (OHS) launched the seventh annual *Checkpoint Strikeforce* campaign.

In a coordinated ongoing effort to prevent further loss of life on the roadways, Delaware's OHS and law enforcement community will join thousands of safety and law enforcement personnel nationwide to participate in the National Impaired Driving Crackdown: *Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest*. The National Crackdown, now in its 10th year, will run from August 15th through Labor Day September 3rd.

"Driving while impaired by alcohol and/or drugs is illegal, yet we continue to see far too many people suffer debilitating injuries and loss of their loved ones because people make the wrong choices," said Tricia Roberts, Director of the Office of Highway Safety. "This careless disregard for human life must stop. To help ensure that happens, officers will be out in force to arrest impaired drivers. No exceptions. No excuses."

During the crackdown period, 32 State, County, and municipal police agencies are scheduled to conduct a total of 9 sobriety checkpoints and 477 DUI saturation patrols.

Enforcement will be accompanied by a local and national paid media awareness campaign to educate the public about the consequences of being arrested for DUI.

The nine sobriety checkpoints are a key component of the *Checkpoint Strikeforce* campaign. Now in its seventh year, “Checkpoint Strikeforce” is a multi-state crackdown on impaired drivers coordinated locally by the Delaware Office of Highway Safety. Participating law enforcement agencies are conducting weekly DUI checkpoints through New Year’s Eve, and monthly checkpoints in the spring, all with the goal of deterring impaired drivers and arresting DUI offenders.

For weekly and ongoing campaign statistical updates please visit our website at www.ohs.delaware.gov and click on the *Checkpoint Strikeforce* icon in the center of the page. For more information about the *Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.* Campaign, visit www.stopimpaireddriving.org.

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